Numb. CXLIV.

The GUARDIAN.

Sua cuique quum ſit animi cogitatio,
Colorque privus ——— ——— Phædr.

Wedneſday, Auguſt 26. 1713.

IT is a very juſt, and a common Obſervation upon the Natives of this Iſland, that in their different Degrees, and in their ſeveral Profeſſions and Employments, they abound as much, and perhaps more, in good Senſe, than any People; and yet, at the ſame time, there is ſcarce an *Engliſhman* of any Life and Spirit, that has not ſome odd Caſt of Thought, ſome Original Humour, that diſtinguiſhes him from his Neighbour. Hence it is, that our Comedies are enriched with ſuch a Diverſity of Characters, as is not to be ſeen upon any other Theatre in *Europe.* Even in the Maſquerades that have been lately given to the Town (though they are Diverſions we are not accuſtomed to) the Singularities of Dreſs were carried much farther than is uſual in Foreign Countries, [illegible] Natives are trained up, as it were, from their [illegible] to thoſe Amuſements. The very ſame Meaſure of Underſtanding, the very ſame Accompliſhments, the very ſame Defects, ſhall, amongſt us, appear under a quite different Aſpect in one Man, to what they do in another. This makes it as impracticable to Foreigners to enter into a thorough Knowlege of the *Engliſh*, as it would be to learn the *Chineſe* Language, in which there is a different Character for every individual Word. I know not how to explain this Vein of Humour ſo obvious in my Countrymen better, than by comparing it to what the *French* [illegible] *goût de terroir* in *Wines*; by which they mean the different Flavour one and the ſame Grape ſhall draw from the different Soils in which it is planted. This National Mark is viſible amongſt us in [illegible] Degree of Men, from the Perſons of the firſt Quality and Politeſt Senſe, down to the loweſt and moſt [illegible] the People. Every Mechanick has [illegible] of Head, and a Turn of Wit, [illegible] uncommon Whim, as a Characteriſtick, that [illegible] him from others of his Trade, as well [illegible] titudes, that are upon a Level [illegible] have a Small-Coal-Man, who [illegible] two plain Notes, which make [illegible] made himſelf Maſter of the whole [illegible] the Gammut, and has frequent Conſorts of Muſick at his own Houſe for the Entertainment of himſelf and his Friends. There is a Perſon [illegible] Hoſpitality, who lives in a Plaiſtered Cottage upon the Road to *Hampſtead*, and gets a Superfluity of Wealth, by accommodating Holiday Paſſengers with Ale, Brandy, Pipes, Tobacco, Cakes, Ginger-bread, Apples, Pears, and other [illegible] Refreſhments of Life; and on Worky-days takes the Air in his Chaiſe, and recreates himſelf with the elegant Pleaſures of the *Beaumonde.* The ſhining Men amongſt our Mobs, dignified by the Title of *Ringleaders*, have an inexhauſtible Fund of Archneſs and